

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES COLLABORATIVE COMMISSION
MEETING NOTES – FEBRUARY 13, 2013
CITY HALL, SISTER CITIES ROOM

ATTENDANCE

Present

Emma Beall	Rose Dawson	Tammy Mann
Bill Campbell	Mike Gilmore	Sean McEneaney
Rosario Casiano	Samuel Hanoura	Gwen Mullen
Victoria Cattaneo	J. Glenn Hopkins	Timothy Peterson
Councilman John Chapman	Gregory C. Hutchings	Sonia Price
William Chesley	Timothy Kennedy	Joyce Rawlings
Charlotte Clinger	Councilman Timothy Lovain	Cynthia Skinner
Andria Cook	Mike Mackey	Marc Williams

Excused Absent

Jeffrey Murphy	Margaret Walsh
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Officials

Deborah Collins

Guests

Noraine Buttar
Allen Lomax
Margaret Patterson

Sharon Shackelford
Lisette Torres

Staff Present

Jacqueline Coachman
Coleen Mann

Barbara Farrington
Carol Farrell

Ron Frazier
Deborah Warren

WELCOME

Chair Tammy Mann welcomed School Board Member Bill Campbell, who was appointed as the second School Board representative to the Children, Youth & Families Collaborative Commission.

REVIEW & APPROVAL OF DRAFT JANUARY MEETING MINUTES

There being no revisions, Greg Hutchings moved approval of the minutes of the meeting of January 9. The motion was seconded by Victoria Cattaneo and passed unanimously.

PRESENTATION ON THE CITY'S HOUSING MASTER PLAN

Mildrilyn Davis, Director of the Office on Housing, provided an overview of the Draft Housing Master Plan released in November 2012. The plan is based on six guiding principles: a variety of housing options for households of all incomes; greater housing choice to people of all ages and abilities; partnerships to improve the affordable housing stock; key factors in the future distribution of affordable housing (access to transportation, strategic preservation, and geographic distribution of affordable rental housing); social and cultural diversity through mixed-income communities; and affordable housing as an important element of a healthy and growing economy.

One reason for a significant decrease in the availability of affordable housing in the City is units that have traditionally been affordable are no longer so due to rent increases. Many residents are expending in excess of 50% of household income for housing. The primary issues affecting Alexandria families are cost of housing in the City and the limited number of units large enough

to accommodate families. There is a shortage of 3-bedroom units and few developments currently under construction will offer 3-bedrooms developments. As a result, the Office of Housing is negotiating with developers to augment the number of new 3-bedroom units. There is also an acute shortage of 2-3 bedroom units for households at 50% of median income as well as a shortage of housing of all sizes for households under 30% of median income. Developments such as Claridge and Foxchase have restrictions that make rents more affordable, but those restrictions have expiration dates and there is no obligation to apply for renewal. Developers contribute to a trust when a project is completed, but contributions have dropped considerably.

While Alexandria has 3,710 rental units under programs with rent and/or income restrictions, more than 14,000 households needed housing in 2010. The Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority (ARHA) opened its public housing and Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) waiting list for one week in 2011 and 15,000 households applied. As of June 2012, there were 7,895 households on the HCV waiting list and 7,796 on the public housing waiting list. The average waiting period for one of ARHA's 1,076 physical housing units is six to eight years.

Gwen Mullen asked if all the units demolished in proximity to Charles Houston would be replaced. In response, Ms. Davis cited a city policy that mandates a one for one replacement of any demolished public housing units. The demolished units near Charles Houston did not have air conditioning or a washer/dryer, but the replacement units do.

The Beauregard Small Area Plan, which provides for the demolition of 2,475 units and the replacement of 800, will be considered by City Council in May or June. Councilman Lovain noted there are instances of market forces resulting in rent increases of 10-20%. The City is seeking to lessen the impact of constant rent increases.

Observing that Alexandria is losing affordable housing faster than income is increasing, Glenn Hopkins asked what CYFCC can do. Ms. Davis stated a predictable, sustainable source of funding for affordable housing is needed and the proactive support of CYFCC at public/budget hearings would be helpful. Because of the potential impact on the work of CYFCC, Sean McEneaney asked how many children live in homes at 60% of the Area Median Income (AMI) or below. Chair Mann stated that question is being explored by a city/school planning group. Tim Kennedy asked where the tenants who are being displaced will go. Ms. Davis stated coordinators will provide information regarding what is available and each household will get a moving payment from the developer. Build-out of the Beauregard development is anticipated to take 20-30 years.

Mr. McEneaney asked if the CYFCC wants to advocate for including in the Housing Master Plan more workforce housing at 80% of the Area Median Income. Mr. Hopkins made such a motion, which was seconded by Mr. McEneaney and passed unanimously.

FOLLOW UP DISCUSSION OF EARLY CHILDHOOD COMMUNITY DISCUSSION & STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT

Chair Mann summarized the four major points in a draft letter (attached) promoting a community-wide approach to an early childhood strategy: 1) the initiative should be in accordance with the youth master plan framework; 2) an ACT for Alexandria partnership will assess relevant best practices implemented by other cities; 3) organizations that serve children with public funding will be convened; and 4) a better understanding is needed of Special Use Permits and the process for opening early childhood center.

After some discussion, Gwen Mullen made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Hopkins, to accept the letter as written. The motion passed unanimously.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

The Budget & Finance Committee met on February 4 to discuss the upcoming budget process and timelines. Mr. Hopkins advised that the committee revisit the letter that was submitted in response to the FY2013 Proposed Budget and use that as a guide for comments on the FY2014 Proposed Budget.

The accomplishments of the Advocacy Committee since the last CYFCC meeting include publishing the first of four planned opinion articles, drafting the second article, and updating the Committee Work Plan. The first opinion piece – “Are Alexandria’s Children Being Effectively Served” – was written by Chair Mann. A second opinion piece regarding increasing enrollment and at-capacity schools was drafted by Emma Beall. Mr. McEneaney is writing the third article. A legislative agenda for FY 2014 will be submitted this spring.

Cynthia Skinner informed the Commission that outcome and vision statements for the youth master plan had been endorsed by the Design Team. Rose Dawson reported that the volunteer application is now available on the CYFCC website.

NEW BUSINESS

Allen Lomax announced that the results of the Youth Risk Behavioral Survey conducted in 2011 have been released. They can be found on the websites of the Health Department and the Partnership for a Healthier Alexandria.

ADJOURNMENT

Tim Kennedy informed the Commission that the February meeting would be his last since he is relocating to Arizona. The Chair ended the meeting with an acknowledgement of the valuable contributions of Mr. Kennedy and wishing him well.

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.